

IN THE CLAIMS

Please replace all claims in the instant application with the listing below amending claims 1, 3, 4, 7, 13 and 16-18; adding claims 25-30; and canceling claims 19-24 as follows:

- 1    1. (Currently Amended) A lifting sling, said lifting sling comprising:
  - 2
  - 3       a plurality of core materials; and
  - 4
  - 5       a coating material, said coating material is sprayed onto said plurality of core
  - 6       materials, the thickness of said coating material is regulated in a predetermined
  - 7       pattern to achieve [the] desired operational properties of said lifting sling.
  - 8
- 1    2. (Previously Presented) The lifting sling in accordance with claim 1, wherein said
- 2       coating material is selected from the group consisting of a polyurea elastomer, a
- 3       polyurethane, or a hybrid polyurethane – polyurea elastomer.
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- 1    3. (Currently Amended) The lifting sling in accordance with claim [2]1, wherein said
- 2       coating material has an operational temperature range of –40 to 175 degrees Celsius.
- 3
- 1    4. (Currently Amended) The lifting sling in accordance with claim [2]1, wherein said
- 2       coating material has a tensile strength in the range of up to 6,500 pounds per square inch,
- 3       an elongation range of up to 300 percent, and a tear resistance in the range of up to 600
- 4       pounds per linear inch.
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- 1    5. (Previously Presented) The lifting sling in accordance with claim 1, wherein said
- 2       coating material includes at least one of the following additives:

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- 4        i)     a catalyst;
- 5        ii)    a stabilizer;
- 6        iii)   a pigment;
- 7        iv)    a fire retardant;
- 8        v)     a static electricity reducing additive;
- 9        vi)    an ultraviolet filtering additive; or
- 10      vii)   a thermal cycling additive.

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1       6. (Previously Presented) The lifting sling in accordance with claim 1, wherein said  
2       plurality of core materials include at least one of the following:

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- 4        i)     nylon;
- 5        ii)    polyester;
- 6        iii)   a synthetic fiber;
- 7        iv)    polypropylene;
- 8        v)     wire rope;
- 9        vi)    steel core;
- 10      vii)   cordage rope;
- 11      viii)   yarn;
- 12      ix)    NOMAX;
- 13      x)     KEVLAR; or
- 14      xi)    chain.

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1       7. (Currently Amended) The lifting sling in accordance with claim 1, wherein said lifting  
2       sling further [comprises] comprising a safety core, said safety core being bonded [with]  
3       proximate to said plurality of core materials.

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1    8. (Previously Presented) The lifting sling in accordance with claim 7, wherein said safety  
2    core traverses said lifting sling.

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1    9. (Previously Presented) The lifting sling in accordance with claim 7, wherein said safety  
2    core is located, with respect to said plurality of core materials, in at least one of the  
3    following locations:

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- 5            i)      seam located;  
6            ii)     perimeter located; or  
7            iii)    centrally located.

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1    10. (Previously Presented) The lifting sling in accordance with claim 7, wherein said  
2    safety core is interconnected with at least one of the following:

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- 4            i)      an indicator; or  
5            ii)     an electronic system.

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1    11. (Previously Presented) The lifting sling in accordance with claim 1, wherein prior to  
2    applying said coating material said plurality of core materials are selectively temperature  
3    adjusted and or pre-tensioned.

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1    12. (Previously Presented) The lifting sling in accordance with claim 1, wherein a multi-  
2    core lifting sling is formed by applying a seaming layer of said coating material to bond  
3    together at least one of the following:

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1    13. (Currently Amended) The lifting sling in accordance with claim 12, wherein said  
2    multi-core lifting sling further [comprises] comprising a safety core, said safety core  
3    utilizes at least one of the following configurations:

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1 14. (Previously Presented) The lifting sling in accordance with claim 12, wherein said  
2 multi-core lifting sling is formed having multiple free moving spans by applying said  
3 seaming layer only to the end portions of said multi-core lifting sling.

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1 15. (Previously Presented) The lifting sling in accordance with claim 14, wherein said  
2 multi-core lifting sling has interconnecting ribs.

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1    16. (Currently Amended) The lifting sling in accordance with claim 1, wherein said  
2    lifting sling further [comprises] comprising at least one of the following:

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6           ii)    an electronic system [attached to said lifting sling] secured proximate to  
7           said plurality of core materials.

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1     17. (Currently Amended) The lifting sling in accordance with claim 16, wherein said  
2     electronic system further [~~comprises~~] comprising at least one of the following:

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- 4           i)    a microcontroller;
- 5           ii)    a graphical user interface;
- 6           iii)    a keypad;
- 7           iv)    a touch pad;
- 8           v)    a plurality of general purpose inputs and outputs;
- 9           vi)    a safety core interface;
- 10          vii)    a lifting sling measurement and dynamics interface;
- 11          viii)    an RFID interface;
- 12          ix)    an IRDA interface;
- 13          x)    a transceiver;
- 14          xi)    a wireless data link;
- 15          xii)    a LAN interface;
- 16          xiii)    a WAN interface;
- 17          xiv)    a serial data link;
- 18          xv)    a GPS interface;
- 19          xvi)    a power supply;
- 20          xvii)    a flash memory;
- 21          xviii)    a read only memory;
- 22          xix)    a real time clock;
- 23          xx)    an EEROM; or
- 24          xxi)    a NOVRAM.

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1    18. (Currently Amended) The lifting sling in accordance with claim [+] 16, [wherein  
2    said safety core interface is interconnected with a safety core, said electronic system-  
3    based in part on monitoring said safety core indicates operational condition, and or-  
4    suitability for use of said lifting sling] wherein said indicator and or said electronic  
5    system indicates the operational condition of said lifting sling, the suitability for use of  
6    said lifting sling, and or the security status of an article secured by said lifting sling.

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1    19-24 (Canceled)

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1    25. (Newly Added) A lifting sling, said lifting sling comprising:

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3        a plurality of core materials; and

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5        a coating material, said coating material is disposed onto said plurality of core  
6        materials, said coating material is selected from the group consisting of a polyurea  
7        elastomer, a polyurethane, or a hybrid polyurethane – polyurea elastomer;

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9        wherein the location and thickness of said coating material is regulated to achieve desired  
10      operational properties of said lifting sling.

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1    26. (Newly Added) The lifting sling in accordance with claim 25, further comprising a  
2    cover, said cover being fitted around said plurality of core materials, said cover is coated  
3    with said coating material.

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1    27. (Newly Added) The lifting sling in accordance with claim 25, further comprising a  
2    cover, said cover being fitted around said plurality of core materials, said cover is coated  
3    and secured into position with said coating material.

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1    28. (Newly Added) The lifting sling in accordance with claim 25, wherein said lifting  
2    sling further comprising an electronic system secured proximate to said plurality of core  
3    materials, wherein by way of said electronic system said lifting sling data communicates  
4    with a plurality of data processing devices and or a plurality of global network based data  
5    processing resources.

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1    29. (Newly Added) A lifting sling, said lifting sling comprising:

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3                a plurality of core materials; and

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5                a coating material, said coating material is sprayed onto said plurality of core  
6                materials, said coating material is a polyurea elastomer, a polyurethane, or a  
7                hybrid polyurethane – polyurea elastomer.

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1    30. (Newly Added) The lifting sling in accordance with claim 29, wherein said lifting  
2    sling further comprising an electronic system configured to monitor and or determine at  
3    least one of the following:

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5                i)        the suitability for use of said lifting sling;  
6                ii)      the operational condition of said lifting sling; or  
7                iii)     the security status of an article being secured by said lifting sling.